

Frequently Asked Questions from Veterinarians

What should I tell horse owners regarding the Equine Interstate Movement Permit Program?

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) recently promulgated rules that allow the implementation of the Equine Interstate Movement Permit Program, or “Equine Passport.” Applications and required forms are available at the Tenn. Dept of Agriculture Animal Health webpage at tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate/animal/passport.html. This program recognizes the better-quality of health care provided by horse owners that participate in fairs, exhibitions, and trail rides with their animals. As a result, participating states have waived the requirement for a 30 day health certificate, contingent upon compliance with the restrictions that have been agreed upon between Southeastern states taking part in the program. The movement permit is valid for six months.

What states are in the program?

To date, the following states participate in the program: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and West Virginia. Kentucky and Virginia have indicated their intent to join the program in future.

What are the procedures involved in submitting an application?

Completed applications must be submitted through an accredited veterinarian. Horse owners may complete the application printed from the TDA web page and submit it to their veterinarian. In addition to the completed form, the veterinarian must submit a current health certificate and a negative EIA test form (i.e. Coggins or VS 10-11 form) that is valid for the complete duration of the “passport”. The veterinarian is encouraged to forward the “pink and canary copies” of the issued health certificate as part of the submission. Under consignee or the destination address box, list “Equine Interstate Movement Permit Program”. The health certificate should list only the horse(s) that are being submitted for a “passport” document. Other horses moving on a 30 day health certificate must travel on a separate certificate that lists the specific destination, as has been the requirement in the past.

Can I provide a photocopy of the EIA test results rather than the original?

Yes. However, the submitting veterinarian must countersign the photocopy attesting that the EIA test form reflects the test results from the horse for which the application is based.

What other application documents must be submitted?

Additional unique identification is required as part of the program. Approved forms of identification include a **unique** tattoo (i.e., registry tattoo), **unique** brand, unique ID number such as is encoded on an implanted microchip, or three digital photographs of the horses submitted in low resolution “.jpeg” format.

How do I submit these “.jpgs”?

Low resolution “.jpg”s may be submitted to our office on a “compact disc” with “hard copies” of the other application documents, or can be e-mailed to our office at (tnpremises.id@state.tn.us). When e-mailing the photos, information linking the photos to the application should be included as an attachment or as part of the message. Please include the owner’s name and address, the veterinarian’s name and address, and the health certificate official number linking the photographs to the health certificate for which the application is based.

What types of photos should be submitted?

Three different photos are required and must include an image of the entire left side, the entire right side, and a front view, framed to include the head from the ear tips to the lower lip.

Are there any additional requirements for movement to other states?

Yes. A copy of those additional state-based restrictions can be printed from the Tennessee Passport web page (<http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate/animal/passport.html>) and should be provided to the horse owner for their information at the time the application is submitted.

What microchips should be used?

On a long-term basis, Tennessee will adopt a microchip standard (currently 134.2 kHz) to be compliant with the recommendations offered by the equine species working group of the National Animal Identification Program. Their proposals can be viewed at the American Horse Council web page <http://www.horsecouncil.org>. For more information, also see the TDA equine microchipping program web page. The Tennessee program is designed to reduce the costs to horse owners when they choose microchipping as a form of official identification for their horse. Until 134.2 kHz microchips are readily available, co-payment will also be offered for 125 kHz microchips.

Are there any other restrictions?

By agreement, an event itinerary must be kept throughout the duration of the passport. Copies of those forms are also available at the passport web page.